Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following <u>new</u> heading before paragraph [0002]:
BACKGROUND

Please add the following <u>new</u> heading before paragraph [0016]:
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend paragraph [0016] as follows:

[0016] The invention is based on <u>an</u> ~~the~~ object of providing a method and a device for predicting the mean time period between two failures of a technical system at low cost without a complicated model or measurement data from the ongoing operation of the technical system being required for this.

Please delete paragraph [0017].

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:
[0032] In addition to the MTBF value of the technical system, the mean time period for fault recovery after a failure of the technical system is preferably predicted ~~(claim 2, claim 9)~~. In ~~the~~ ~~embodiment according to claim 2~~ <u>an advantageous development</u>, the device additionally <u>may</u> <u>comprise</u> ~~comprises~~ an apparatus for acquiring setpoint MTTR values for the components of the components list. In addition, a setpoint MTTR value is acquired for each component of the components list. MTTR stands for "mean time to repair" or else "meant time to restoration". The MTTR value of a component is the mean time period for fault recovery on the technical system after a failure of the component. The setpoint MTTR value is therefore the required or planned mean time period for fault recovery on the technical system after the failure of the component. Various components may have different MTTR values and also different setpoint MTTR values.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:
[0036] In one <u>optional</u> development of this embodiment ~~(claim 3)~~, the device calculates the

setpoint MTTR value of each component of the components list by adding the following two acquired values, specifically

- the setpoint MRT value of the component
- and the setpoint MTD value of the component.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following amended paragraph:

[0039] The electronic components list with the maintenance-intensive components is preferably acquired from an electronic parts list ~~(claim 4)~~. This parts list describes complete decomposition of the technical system into its components. The parts list therefore comprises not only the maintenance-intensive components but also all the other ones. The device also comprises an apparatus for characterizing a component as maintenance-intensive, for example for marking specific components of the parts list. The components list is automatically acquired from the parts list, with all the parts of the parts list which are characterized as maintenance-intensive being determined and compiled to form the components list.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] ~~According to claim 7~~In an optional advantageous embodiment of the invention, the electronics parts list is valid for a category of technical systems which carry out the same functions. From this parts list with the device according to ~~claim 5~~ this embodiment it is possible to generate a components list which is valid for this category of technical systems. However, it is also possible to generate different components lists for various technical systems of the category from the same parts list and to use the device ~~as claimed in claim 5~~ repeatedly for this purpose. A components list which functions as a components list for each system of the category, unless a different components list has been generated for a system, is preferably generated once in advance with the device ~~as claimed in claim 5~~.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] The invention can be applied particularly advantageously to a plurality of technical systems of a category ~~(claim 5, claim 11)~~, for example for various manufacturing systems for manufacturing cylinder heads for motor vehicles. The technical systems of the category fulfill the same function, for example the manufacturing of the cylinder heads to a required number per month with a required level of quality from predefined raw parts. The invention provides a

convenient method for comparing various technical systems of the category with one another without these systems already having to be in use. According to the invention, the respective failure frequencies and down times may be ~~are~~ predicted for each of this plurality of systems. A comparison of the predicted values may be ~~is~~ generated. The comparison makes it possible to compare the systems and to derive technical improvement possibilities from the comparison. Furthermore it becomes possible to compare competing offers for in each case one technical system of the category if these offers comprise failure frequencies and down times.

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0044]:
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following new heading before paragraph [0050]:
DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the heading on top of page 38 with the following amended heading:
~~Patent claims~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: